

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 42

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman TIMOTHY J. EUSTACE

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Designates April 24 as “Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



AJR42 EUSTACE

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1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating April 24 of each year as
2 “Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day” in the State of New
3 Jersey.
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5 **WHEREAS**, On April 24, 1915, Ottoman Empire authorities arrested,
6 and later executed, more than 200 Armenian community leaders
7 and intellectuals in the capital of Constantinople, now known as
8 Istanbul; and

9 **WHEREAS**, This atrocity marked the escalation of systemic persecution
10 and violence against the Armenian people by the government of the
11 Ottoman Empire that continued through 1923; and

12 **WHEREAS**, During this period, Armenians were subject to deportation,
13 expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation, planned
14 and orchestrated by the government of the Ottoman Empire; and

15 **WHEREAS**, In all, approximately 1.5 million Armenians had perished
16 and hundreds of thousands more had become homeless, stateless
17 refugees at the hands of the Ottoman Empire; and

18 **WHEREAS**, By 1923, the Ottoman Empire had eliminated virtually the
19 entire Armenian demographic presence in the vast majority of the
20 historical homeland of the Armenian people; and

21 **WHEREAS**, These horrific events constitute what is widely recognized
22 today by numerous scholars, governments, and international
23 organizations as the Armenian Genocide; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Notwithstanding the historical evidence to the contrary,
25 some, including the government of the Republic of Turkey, deny to
26 this day that the Armenian Genocide ever happened; and

27 **WHEREAS**, The danger of denying these events was manifested when,
28 on the eve of sending his troops into Poland in World War II with
29 orders to kill without any mercy, Hitler said: “Who, after all, speaks
30 today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”; and

31 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper to remember, with the
32 Armenian communities throughout New Jersey, the United States,
33 and the world, and with Armenia, these tragic events to help ensure
34 that such atrocities are never repeated; now, therefore,
35

36 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
37 *State of New Jersey:*
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39 1. April 24 of each year is designated as “Armenian Genocide
40 Remembrance Day,” in recognition of the atrocities faced by the
41 Armenians at the hands of the government of the Ottoman Empire
42 from 1915 through 1923.
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44 2. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation calling
45 upon public officials and the citizens of this State to observe April
46 24 as “Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.”

1 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This joint resolution designates April 24 of each year as
7 “Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day,” in recognition of the
8 atrocities suffered by the Armenians at the hands of the government
9 of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 through 1923. During this
10 period, Armenians were subject to deportation, expropriation,
11 abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation, all of which were
12 planned and orchestrated by the government of the Ottoman
13 Empire. These horrific events are widely recognized today by
14 numerous scholars, governments, and international organizations as
15 the Armenian Genocide. This tragic event in history must be
16 acknowledged and remembered to ensure that such atrocities are
17 never repeated.